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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/71/150.

** The information contained in the present addendum was received after the issuance of the main report.

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IV. Reply received from the European Union

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The European Union remains a staunch supporter of a process aimed at establishing a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery, in the Middle East.

In 1995, the European Union and its member States, together with all the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region, committed themselves, through the Barcelona Declaration, to the pursuit of "a mutually and effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems".

The European Union has continuously expressed its readiness to assist in the process leading to the establishment of a zone in the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. In order to help to produce a conducive atmosphere and move the process forward, the European Union organized a seminar in 2011 and in 2012.

In June 2014, prior to the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the European Union convened a capacity-building workshop in Brussels on a zone in the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction for Middle Eastern diplomats in support of the Helsinki conference. During the workshop, the participants learned from the personal experience of negotiators in the fields of international security, arms control, disarmament and confidence-building and security-building measures.

The E3/EU+3[1] took part in the diplomatic efforts of the E3/EU+3 countries and Iran to find a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Those efforts culminated, on 14 July 2015, in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. As coordinator of the joint commission, in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will continue to play a key role in ensuring that Iran's commitments are thoroughly implemented and that, through this process, confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme can be built.

The European Union reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East and continues to support the aim of convening a conference in this regard as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the region.

[1] The E3/EU+3 includes China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.